

**James Madison to Paul Hamilton, December 31,  
1812. Transcription: The Writings of James Madison,  
ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons,  
1900-1910.**

**TO PAUL HAMILTON.<sup>1</sup> MAD. MSS.**

<sup>1</sup> Hamilton's resignation was probably on a hint from Madison. On January 12, 1813, William Jones, of Pennsylvania, succeeded him.

December 31, 1812.

Dear Sir, —I have recd. your letter of yesterday, signifying your purpose to retire from the Dept. which has been under your care.

On an occasion which is to terminate the relation in wch. it placed us, I cannot satisfy my own feelings, or the tribute due to your patriotic merits & private virtues, without bearing testimony to the faithful zeal, the uniform exertions, and unimpeachable integrity, with which you have discharged that important trust; and without expressing the value I have always placed on that personal intercourse, the pleasure of which I am now to lose.

With these recollections & impressions I tender you assurances of my affecte esteem, and of my sincerest wishes for your welfare & happiness.